

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for orienting an endoscope shaft and operator control module. The operator control module includes an engaging mechanism that allows the operator control module to be disengaged from the endoscope shaft. This allows the operator control module to remain in the operator's preferred orientation and then be re-engaged to the endoscope shaft. Remotely powered tip articulation cables are also provided, thus allowing the operator control module the freedom of not having to remain mechanically attached to the endoscope shaft in a fixed position. When the operator wants to rotate the endoscope shaft axially and does not want the position of the operator control module to be changed, the operator control module engaging mechanism is disengaged, after which the endoscope shaft is rotated to the desired position, and the engaging mechanism is then re-engaged to the endoscope shaft or to a fixed feature on the shaft.

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